



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL- 8926-01-OA]

Request for Nominations of Candidates for Two Review Panels of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Staff Office requests public nominations of scientific experts for two ad hoc review panels of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC). The review panels will provide advice through the chartered CASAC on the scientific and technical aspects of air quality criteria and the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for lead and the secondary NAAQS for oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur, and particulate matter (PM).

DATES: Nominations should be submitted by **[INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** per the instructions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information regarding this Notice and Request for Nominations may contact Mr. Aaron Yeow, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), SAB Staff Office, by telephone/voice mail at (202) 564-2050 or via email at yeow.aaron@epa.gov.

General information concerning the CASAC can be found on the following website:
<https://casac.epa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The CASAC was established pursuant to the Clean Air Act (CAA) Amendments of 1977, codified at 42 U.S.C. 7409(d)(2), to review air quality criteria and NAAQS and recommend to the EPA Administrator any new NAAQS and revisions of existing criteria and NAAQS as may be appropriate. The CASAC shall also: advise the EPA Administrator of areas in which additional knowledge is required to appraise the adequacy and basis of existing, new, or revised NAAQS; describe the research efforts necessary to provide the required information; advise the EPA Administrator on the relative contribution to air pollution concentrations of natural as well as anthropogenic activity; and advise the EPA Administrator of any adverse public health, welfare, social, economic, or energy effects which may result from various strategies for attainment and maintenance of such NAAQS. As amended, 5 U.S.C., App. Section 109(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA carry out a periodic review and revision, as appropriate, of the air quality criteria and the NAAQS for the six “criteria” air pollutants, including lead, oxides of nitrogen oxides, oxides of sulfur, and PM.

The CASAC is a Federal advisory committee chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As a Federal Advisory Committee, the CASAC conducts business in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and related regulations. The CASAC and the CASAC Review Panels will comply with the provisions of FACA and all appropriate SAB Staff Office procedural policies.

History of the Lead NAAQS Review: With the publication of the National Ambient Standards for lead (81 FR 71906) on October 18, 2016, the Agency completed its most recent review of the lead NAAQS. The CASAC's Lead Review Panel for that review was formed in July 2010 and completed its work in June 2013. In July 2020, the EPA publicly announced the initiation of the current primary and secondary NAAQS review for lead (85 FR 40641).

This *Federal Register* notice solicitation is seeking nominations for subject matter experts to serve on the CASAC Lead Review Panel for the next review of the lead NAAQS that began with a call for information in July 2020 (85 FR 40641). The Panel will be charged with reviewing the science and policy assessments, and related documents, that form the basis for the EPA's review of the lead NAAQS, and will provide advice through the Chartered CASAC.

History of the Current Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and PM Secondary NAAQS Review: In August 2013, the EPA publicly announced the initiation of the NAAQS review for oxides of nitrogen and oxides of sulfur (78 FR 53452). In the *Integrated Review Plan for the Secondary NAAQS for Ecological Effects of Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and Particulate Matter* (IRP), EPA recognized the combined contribution of oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulfur and PM to deposition of nitrogen and sulfur and the overlap of effects of these air pollutants on ecological systems. As such, EPA stated the plan to review the ecological effects of these three criteria pollutants together in this review and the IRP was finalized in 2017 following consultation with the CASAC and the CASAC Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur. The first and second drafts of the *Integrated Science Assessment for Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur and Particulate Matter - Ecological Criteria* were released in

2017 and 2018 and reviewed by the CASAC and the CASAC Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur. The final ISA was published in 2020 (85 FR 66328). In addition, EPA released the *Review of the Secondary Standards for Ecological Effects of Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and Particulate Matter: Risk and Exposure Assessment Planning Document* in 2018 (83 FR 42497), which the CASAC Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur provided consultative advice on.

On March 31, 2021, the Administrator reset membership of the Chartered CASAC and existing CASAC panels, including the CASAC Secondary NAAQS Review Panel for Oxides of Nitrogen and Sulfur. On June 17, 2021, the new Chartered CASAC members were announced.

This *Federal Register* notice solicitation is seeking nominations for subject matter experts to serve on the CASAC Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and PM Secondary NAAQS Panel to review the Policy Assessment for the EPA's review of the Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and PM Secondary NAAQS, and will provide advice through the Chartered CASAC.

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS: The SAB Staff Office is seeking nominations of nationally and internationally recognized scientists with demonstrated expertise and research in the field of air pollution related to criteria pollutants.

For the Lead Panel, experts are being sought in the following fields, especially with respect to lead: air quality; environmental fate and transport; exposure and biomarker

assessment; biokinetic modeling; toxicology; epidemiology; risk assessment; biostatistics; and ecology.

For the Oxides of Nitrogen, Oxides of Sulfur, and PM Secondary NAAQS Panel, experts are being sought in the following fields, especially with respect to nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and PM: ecological effects of atmospheric concentrations and deposition to terrestrial, wetland and aquatic ecosystems; ecosystem exposure and risk assessment/modeling; ecosystem service and resource valuation; and atmospheric sciences.

Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations: Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified individuals in the areas of expertise described above. Individuals may self-nominate. Nominations should be submitted in electronic format (preferred) using the online nomination form under “Public Input on Membership” on the CASAC webpage at <https://casac.epa.gov>. To be considered, all nominations should include the information requested below. EPA values and welcomes diversity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply regardless of sex, race, disability or ethnicity. Nominations should be submitted by **[INSERT DATE 21 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

The following information should be provided on the nomination form: contact information for the person making the nomination; contact information for the nominee; and the disciplinary and specific areas of expertise of the nominee. Nominees will be contacted by the SABSO and will be asked to provide a recent *curriculum vitae* and a narrative biographical summary that includes: current position, educational background; research activities; sources of research funding for the last two years; and recent service on other national advisory committees or national professional organizations. Persons

having questions about the nomination process or the public comment process described below, or who are unable to submit nominations through the CASAC website, should contact the DFO, as identified above. The names and biosketches of qualified nominees identified by respondents to this *Federal Register* notice, and additional experts identified by the SAB Staff Office, will be posted in a List of Candidates on the CASAC website at <https://casac.epa.gov>. Public comments on each List of Candidates will be accepted for 21 days from the date the list is posted. The public will be requested to provide relevant information or other documentation on nominees that the SAB Staff Office should consider in evaluating candidates.

For the EPA SAB Staff Office, a balanced review panel includes candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the charge. In forming this expert panel, the SAB Staff Office will consider public comments on the List of Candidates, information provided by the candidates themselves, and background information independently gathered by the SAB Staff Office. Selection criteria to be used for panel membership include: (a) scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of financial conflicts of interest; (d) absence of an appearance of a lack of impartiality; (e) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and (f) for the panel as a whole, diversity of expertise and viewpoints.

Candidates may be asked to submit the “Confidential Financial Disclosure Form for Special Government Employees Serving on Federal Advisory Committees at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency” (EPA Form 3110-48). This confidential form is required for Special Government Employees (SGEs) and allows EPA to determine

whether there is a statutory conflict between that person's public responsibilities as an SGE and private interests and activities, or the appearance of a loss of impartiality, as defined by Federal regulation. The form may be viewed and downloaded through the "Ethics Requirements for Advisors" link on the CASAC home page at <https://casac.epa.gov>. This form should not be submitted as part of a nomination.

V Khanna Johnston,
Deputy Director,
Science Advisory Board Staff Office.

[FR Doc. 2021-19301 Filed: 9/7/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 9/8/2021]